



Press Release

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Pennsylvania's Crop Production

HARRISBURG -- Pennsylvania's 2002 production of corn for grain, soybeans, and potatoes is expected to be below last year based on November 1 conditions, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service.

Corn for grain production is forecast at 64.6 million bushels, 33 percent less than last year. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 950,000 with an average yield of 68 bushels per acre, 30 bushels per acre less than last year.

Soybean production is forecast at 10.3 million bushels, 26 percent less than last year. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 380,000 with an average yield of 27 bushels per acre, 8 bushels per acre less than last year.

Potato production is forecast at 2.94 million cwt., 7 percent less than last year. Acreage for harvest is expected to be 14,000 with an average yield of 210 cwt. per acre.

United States' corn for grain production is forecast at 9.0 billion bushels, up slightly from the October 1 forecast but down 5 percent from 2001. Based on conditions as of November 1, yields are expected to average 127.6 bushels per acre, up 0.4 bushel from last month, but down 10.6 bushels from a year ago. If realized, production would be at the lowest level since 1995. Acreage harvested and to be harvested for grain is forecast at 70.5 million acres. Yield prospects in Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska increased from last month despite heavy rainfall at the beginning of the month which slowed harvest progress. Ohio producers realized lower than expected yields from last month as harvest progressed on the late planted, drought stricken crop.

Soybean production is forecast at 2.69 billion bushels, up 1 percent from October 1, but 7 percent below 2001. Based on November 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 37.5 bushels per acre, up 0.5 bushel from last month. If realized, this would be the lowest production since 1999. Area for harvest is forecast at 71.8 million acres, unchanged from October 1, but 2 percent below last year. As harvest progressed, producers realized yield increases from last month in the northern Great Plains, Great Lakes, upper Mississippi Valley, and Tennessee Valley. However, in the Atlantic Coast states, yield prospects decreased from last month.

Fall potato production is forecast at 415 million cwt., up 5 percent from last year. Area harvested, at 1.12 million acres, is up 4.1 percent from last year. The average yield is projected at 371 cwt. per acre, up 4 cwt. from last year.